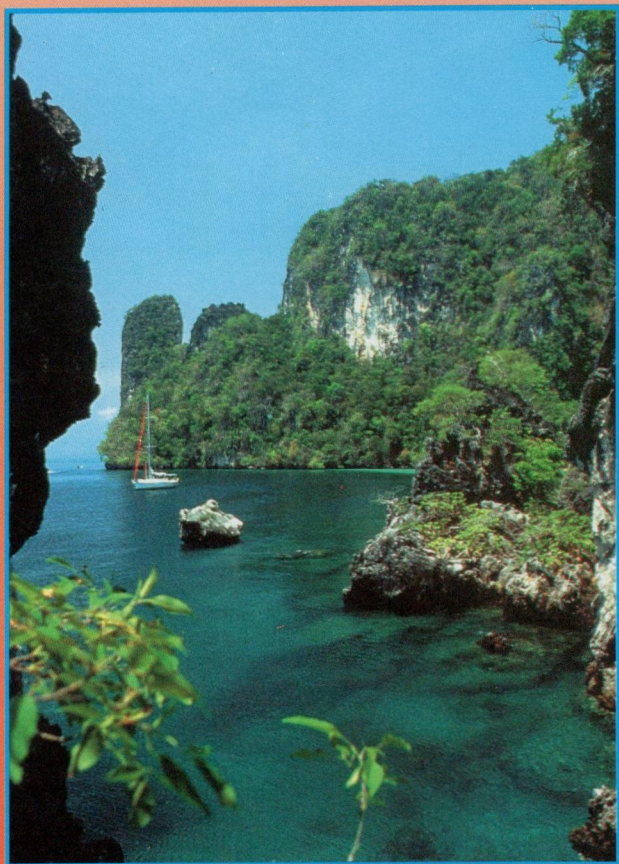




K R A B I



Produced by :

Tourism Authority of Thailand,
Southern Office : Region 4 (Phuket-Phang Nga-Krabi)

USEFUL THAI WORDS

Thai	English
Ao	Bay
Hahd	Beach
Kao	Mountain
Koh/Mu Koh	Island / a group of islands
Klong	Canal
Laem	Cape
Nam Tok	Waterfall
Sa	Pool
Tahm	Cave
Wat	Temple

NOTE :

[illegible]

KRABI

History :

Krabi is a southern province of Thailand which evidence establishes as having a very ancient history. Glass beads, stone tools and bone, drawings and paintings from pre-historic times, have been found in great number. Pottery remains have been discovered and dated to an era 27,000 to 37,000 years ago. It is theorized that Krabi is therefore the most ancient settled community in Thailand, having existed from pre-history to the present. The area is said to have been called formerly 'Ban Thai Samor', and was one of twelve towns using the monkey on its coat of arms. Subject to the ruler of Nakorn Sri Thammarat, who was himself vassal to the King of Thailand, Krabi experienced a period of growth at the beginning of the Rattanakosin period (c. 1782) when Jao Praya Nakorn (Noy) ordered the erection of an elephant stockade there for animals pending shipment to Nakorn Sri Thammarat. Many people followed in his tracks, whose habitations and hamlets grew so numerous the community was divided into three districts : Pakasai, Klong Pon, and Pahklao. This arrangement persisted until 1872, when King Chulalongkorn was pleased to grant Krabi the status of 'Muang', or town. It remained subject to Nakorn, however, as the military chief of Nakorn was appointed first 'Jao Muang', roughly equivalent to the word 'governor', of Krabi. Then in 1875, Krabi became an independent entity reporting directly to Bangkok.

Present Day Administration :

Krabi Province is divided into 6 districts and 2 sub-districts. The 6 districts (or 'Amphur' as they are called in Thai) are: Muang (Krabi Town) , Kao Panom, Klong Tom, Plai Praya, Lanta, and Ao Luk. The two sub-districts are : Lahm Tap and Nua Klong.

Location:

Krabi is 814 kms. from Bangkok down Route 4 (the Petch Kasem Highway). It covers an area of 4,700 sq. kms. and is bordered thus:

On the north: by Phang-nga and Surat Thani.

On the south: by Trang and the Andaman Sea.

On the east: by Trang and Nakorn Sri Thammarat.

On the west: by Phang-nga and the Andaman Sea.

Geography:

Krabi is distinguished by mountains, hills, and plains; and there are more than 30 small islands off the coast. The still pristine jungles include white mangrove and mangrove forests. The soil is mostly sandy clay and rich loam, perfect for rubber, palm, cashew nut, coffee, and coconut plantations.

Within the Muang district precincts flows the Krabi River, which enters the sea at Tambon Pak Nam. Other streams include: the Pakasai, the Big Krabi (Krabi Yai), and the Little Krabi (Krabi Noy), which have their sources in the Panom Benja mountains, Krabi's largest range of mountains.

Weather:

Krabi is affected by the northwest monsoon and has only two seasons. The hot season starts in January and ends in April. The rainy season begins in May and lasts till December. Average temperatures range between 16.9 to 37.3 degrees Celsius. Average rainfall is 2,568.5 mm. yearly.

Travel:

By road: From Bangkok take Route 4 and pass Petchburi, Prachuab Kirikan, Chumphon, Ranong, and Phang-nga provinces until you arrive at Krabi. Total distance : 964 kms. .

An alternate--and faster--route is to take Route 4 south to Chumphon and there turn off to Route 41, passing through the districts of Lang Suan and Chaiya to the district of Wiang Sah in Surat Thani Province. From there take Route 4035 and pass through Ao Luk district to Route 4 again, which will take you to Krabi Town. This short cut saves the distance from Bangkok down to 814 kms. and is the route taken by bus

operators who travel to Krabi daily. For more information call (02) 4351195-6 (non-air-conditioned bus), or (02) 4351200 (air-conditioned bus).

From Phuket: take Route 402 to Route 4, pass Tambon Koke Gloy, and the districts of Takua Tung and Tap Poot in Phang-nga Province, to Ao Luk District of Krabi. Total distance: 185 kms. For details about travel by bus from Phuket to Krabi call the public bus terminal (Bor Kor Sor) at (076) 211480.

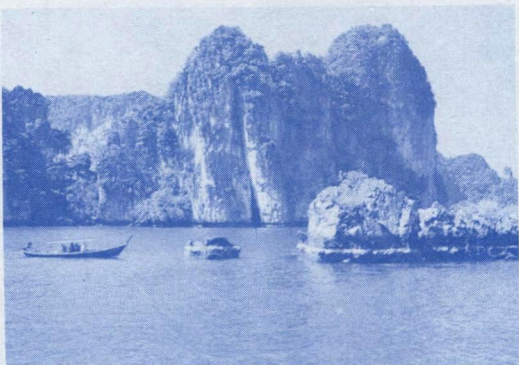
Travel by train: There is no train direct to Krabi. However, by taking the train from Bangkok to Poon Pin station in Surathani, Tung Song in Nakorn Sri Thammarat, or to Trang, you can conveniently take public buses to Krabi. For details call the Thai Railways Travel Section at (02) 2237010.

By air: Regularly scheduled flights leave from Bangkok to Phuket daily, and from there transportation by road to Krabi is easy. Call Thai Airways at (02) 2800070.

Travel by boat from Phuket: Regularly scheduled tour boats operate from Phuket daily to the Phi Phi Islands in Krabi Province, and from there a boat can be taken on the 42 kms. journey to the mainland. Total distance: 90 kms.

Places of Interest in Muang District (Krabi Town) :

Hahd Noparatarah-Mu Koh Phi Phi National Park: (อุทยานแห่งชาติหาดนพรัตน์ธารา - หมู่เกาะพีพี) is spread across Tambon Nong Talay, Sai Thai, Ao Nang, and Pakh Nam. There are many interesting places to visit:



- **Hahd Noparatarah** (หาดนพรัตน์ธารา) : is 3 kms. long. It was formerly called by local villagers 'Hahd Klong Hang' (Dry river beach) because during low tide water flowing from a mountain stream to the north dries up early, thus becoming a beach stretching down into the sea to meet Kao Pahk Klong Island. Accommodation is available. For additional details contact Noparatarah - Phi Phi Islands National Park P.O.Box 23, Muang District, Krabi 81000; or at the National Park Division Tel. (02) 5790529 in Bangkok.

- **75 Million-Year-Old Susan Hoy (Shell Cemetery Beach)** (สุสานหอย 75 ล้านปี) : is situated at Ban Laem Po. Long ago this was a freshwater marsh populated by clams and other bi-valves, chiefly little two centimeters long 'Hoy Kohm' or pond snails, which grouped and multiplied in such numbers that the dead formed a floor for the living. This process, repeated over eons, led to the creation of layer of fossils about 40 cms. thick, called shelly limestone. Lower down is a 10 cms. layer of lignite and below that is bedrock. Scientific tests have established that the age of these fossils is 75 million years, stretching back to the Tertiary Age. There are only three places on Earth with such old deposits. The other two are in the U.S. near Chicago, and in Japan.



- **Ao Nang** (อ่าวนาง) : 'Ao' means 'bay' and this bay has on one side a hill with a cave featuring stalactites and stalagmites. The bay itself has a group of 83 islands of various sizes and shapes which the local people like to characterize as looking like a boot; a sailing junk;

and so on. Most of them have names in the Yawi language which is related to Malay. Koh Yawasa, Koh Moh, Koh Poda, Koh Sriboya, Pra Nang beach, Pra Nang pond, and Rai Lay beach are places of interest.



- **Mu Koh Phi Phi** (หมู่เกาะพีพี) : It is said these islands were first called 'Pulau Bee Aw Bee'; 'Pulau' meaning 'island' in Malay, and 'Bee Aw Bee' being a species of tree still commonly used for firewood: the copsewood. This was later corrupted into 'BeeBee', and that became 'Pee Pee', or 'Phi Phi' as it is most commonly rendered in English. (It is not pronounced Fee Fee as at first glance it would appear).

The Phi Phi islands were declared a National Park in 1983. There are 6 islands in all: Phi Phi Don, Phi Phi Lay, Bida Nok, Bida Nai, Yoong, and Pai, lying at a distance of 43 kms. from the coast of Krabi. They are mountainous, and form themselves around nearly enclosed bays. The most interesting places are :

- **Koh Yoong** (เกาะยอ) : lies to the north of Phi Phi Don. There is a rocky beach on the east side; a small beach in a fold of the hill; and perfectly preserved coral gardens.

- **Koh Pai** (เกาะไผ่) : Also to the north of Phi Phi Don, and not very far from Koh Yoong. There are lovely beaches on the north and east sides, and coral gardens spreading to the south.

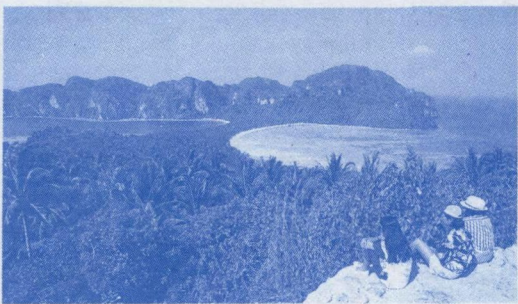


• **Koh Phi Phi Lay** (เกาะพีพีเล) : is an island of 6.6 sq.kms. It is mountainous and rocky. Tall cliffs rise straight up from the sea's surface almost all around the island. Water depth averages 20 metres offshore; and 34 metres is the deepest spot, at the south end of the island. The semi-circular bays are very lovely and include: Pilae, Mahya, Losama, and others. On the northeast is the famous 'Viking Cave' so-called from the paintings therein, which His Majesty King Bhumibol was pleased to grant also the name 'Payanak' meaning 'Serpent Lord', in honour of the villagers who gather swallow's nests on the island. Inside, on the east and south walls of the cave, are paintings from historical times of an elephant, and boats of various kinds: European sailing ships, Arab prows, junks, sharp-stemmed vessels probably of European origin, steam ships, and propeller-driven sailboats. It is theorized that these are the work of sailors, or perhaps of pirates, because the island provides refuge during the monsoons and lies on the main shipping lane from west to east. It was thus a place suitable for offloading cargo and conducting repairs.



• **Koh Phi Phi Don** (เกาะพีพีดอน) : is an island of about 28 sq.kms., 3.5 kms. wide and 8 kms. long. On the north side is Laem Tong, where about 15 to 20 sea gypsy families reside. Most of them emigrated from Koh Lipae in Tarutao National Park. The undersea life in the vicinity of Laem Tong is quite lovely, and perfect for diving, as is Laem Hua Ragaet's tip. There is a long beach and rock landing. Aside from this there are 2 beaches of considerable beauty among the world's most beautiful at Ao Lodalum and Ao Ton Sai, where accommodation is to be found.

To get to the Phi Phi Islands, a boat can be boarded at Jao Fa Pier (ท่าเรือเจ้าฟ้า) in Krabi; or, alternatively tour boats leave daily from Phuket.



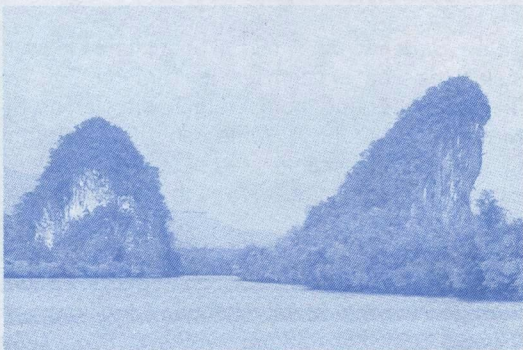
Tahm Sadet (ถ้ำเสด็จ) : is a beautiful cave with stalactites and stalagmites in Tambon Sai Tai (ตำบลไสไทย), 7 kms. from Krabi Town. Named by King Vajiravudhi, 'Somdetch Pra Borom Orasathiraj'. It became known after his visit as simply 'His Highness's Cave' by the local villagers.

Sa Kaew (สระแก้ว) : in the forest in Tambon Kao Tong. The name means 'Crystal Pool'. To get there, follow the Krabi - Nai Sa Rd. There are 8 pools in all, arising from natural sources. They each have names : Nam Lod, Cherng Kao, Jorakeh Kao, Nam Tip, Nam Kram, Moragoat, Hoon Gang, and Noy.

Tahm Sua Kao Kaew Meditation Center, Ao Look Tanu (สำนักวิปัสสนาถ้ำเสือเขาแก้ว อำเภอถ้ำน้ำ) : is at Ban Tahm Sua in Tambon Krabi Noy, about 9 kms. from Krabi Town. It is called Tahm Sua

(Tiger Cave) because there was once a huge tiger nearby. It is located at the front of the Ao Look Tanu Mountain Range, or Kao Kaew (Crystal Mountain). Inside the cave there are what appear to be tiger paw prints in the stone. The surrounding area is covered with large trees hundreds of years old, particularly in the Kiriwong Valley. Mountains are on all sides and there are smaller caves in great number. Chang Kaew, Look Tanu, Tahm Pra, Tahm Kon Tan, and Tahm Lod are the main ones. Aside from being the site of the meditation center, it is also a place of archaeological and historical interest. Stone tools, pottery remains, and the mold for making Buddha footprints have been found in excavations.

Kao Kanab Nam (เขานาน้ำ): 100 meters high hills rising from the water. Kanab Mae Nam Krabi is regarded as the symbol of Krabi. It sits before the city and can be visited by long tail boat from the Jao Fa Pier. Travel time is about 15 minutes. From the boat, one climbs a staircase to see caves with stalactites and stalagmites. Many human skeletons have been found in the area. It is theorized they are the remains of immigrants who became stranded and died after a sudden flood.



Nam Tok Huoy Toe (น้ำตกห้วยโต้): is in Tambon Tap Prik on the way to the old market, Sri Trang-Pracha-utit Rd. Its source is in the Panom Benja Range of mountains. The waterfall has 11 levels, each of which contains a natural pool of clear water at least 4 or 5 meters wide. Wahng Tehwada, Wahng Sok, and Wahng Jahn are the main ones.

Tourist Attractions in Kao Panom District

Kao Panom Benja National Park (อุทยานแห่งชาติเขานมเบญจา) : lies 20 kms. outside Krabi town along the old market road to Ban Huoy Toe. It covers 50.12 sq.kms. in Kao Panom, Muang (Town) , and Ao Luk District. It is mostly dense forest and rugged hills among which are various interesting spots, such as:

- **Tahm Kao Ping** (ถ้ำเขามัง) : a cave lying 3 kms. from the National Park Office. It includes 5 places with stalactites and stalagmites of various sizes and shapes, some resembling a stupa, a curtain, or a mushroom. The cave wall has beautiful glittering white streaks. There is tourist accommodation which can be reserved. For details, contact the National Park Office, Tambon Tap Prik, Muang District, Krabi 81000

- **Nam Tok Huoy Saday** (น้ำตกห้วยสะเด) : springs from a tall cliff. It is 1.2 kms. from the National Park Office.

- **Nam Tok Klong Hang** (น้ำตกคลองแห้ง) : It is about 500 meters high and springs from Kao Thaep Benja, which is the tallest mountain in Krabi and is 10 kms. from the District Headquarters.

- **Nam Tok Ton Hahn** (น้ำตกต้นหาร) : is 16 kms. from the District Headquarters. Its source is the same as that of Klong Hang Waterfall, but it is not so high.

Places of Interest in Klong Tom District

Wat Klong Tom Museum (พิพิธภัณฑ์สถานวัดคลองท่อม) : is in Tambon Klong Tom Tai, about 1 km. from the District Headquarters. It is where all the discoveries made in the diggings on 'Bead Hill' behind the Wat or temple, are kept. There are stones and bronze tools, coins, pottery, ceramic and stone decorations, and beads more than 5000 years old.

Tung Tiao (ทุ่งเตียว) : is in Bang Tiao Village, Tambon Klong Tom Nua, 25 kms. from the District Headquarters. It is a rainforest where one can go hiking. The distance is 2.7 kms. It is perfect for nature lovers and conservationists wishing to know more about the virgin forest. Ask about forest manuals at the Unit Station and be sure to bring along good shoes and some mosquito repellent.

Sa Nam Pu (สระน้ำพุ) : is a deep clear water pool with astonishing properties : when a loud sound is made, its echo seems to bubble up from the water.

Koh Silla (เกาะศิลา) : is 2 kms. from the beach at Bormuang. It has beautiful beaches and brightly colored birds of various kinds in large numbers.

Nam Tok Hin Perng (น้ำตกหินเพิง) : is at Ban Hin Perng, Tambon Klong Pon, about 2.5 kms. from the District Headquarters. It is a 3 level waterfall 800 meters up in shady surroundings.

Nam Tok Ron (น้ำตกร้อน) : is in Tambon Klong Tom Nua, 12 kms. from the District Headquarters. It is surrounded by shady forest and springs from beneath the earth. 'Ron' means 'hot', and the temperature of the water is higher than at others nearby.

Kao Pra-Bang Krahm (เขาปราบงคราม) : is a wild animal reserve covering 170 sq.kms. in Klong Tom District of Krabi, and Wang Wiset District of Tarng. Birds found there include Gurney's, On the Black-breasted Pitta ; the Chestnut - Collared Kingfisher; the Black Hornbill; and the Crestwood Partridge.

Places of Interest in Lanta District

Mu Koh Lanta National Park (อุทยานแห่งชาติหมู่เกาะลันตา) : covers 150 sq.kms. on Lanta Island. It is the furthest point south in Krabi Province and was formerly called 'Pulau Satak' which means in Malay that there are long beaches.

Later, both Buddhist and Muslim Thais emigrated to the island in large numbers, which was dazzling, and so from this it came to be called 'Koh Lanta' meaning in English 'Dazzling Island'. There are many important places within the National Park :



- Koh Lanta Yai (เกาะลันตาใหญ่) : is where both the District Headquarters and National Park Office are located. The island itself is generally rugged and mountainous. There are beaches both gravelly and sandy toward the south. The 'Chaolay', or Sea Gypsies, still reside on the island, maintaining their old way of life. They have peculiar traditions, such as setting a boat adrift to drive out evil and bring good luck. This is done during the full moon in June and in November. There are regular ferries to Koh Lanta leaving from Ban Hin Pier in Tambon Koh Glahng, Bormuang Pier, in Tambon Sai Kao, and Jao Fa Pier in Krabi town.

- Koh Taleng Beng (เกาะตะเล็งเบ็ง) : A rock island similar to Phi Phi Lay. Swallows make their nests there and at low tide a small beach and a tunnel can be seen.

- Mu Koh Hah (หมู่เกาะห้า) : A group of 5 islands. Hah Yai has a meadow on the ridge. Aside from that, the island is shaped like a sail boat. Water passes beneath the islands and there is coral in some shallow waters.

- **Koh Ngai** (เกาะไน) : long beach and coral along the east shore of the island ; perfect for diving. The easiest way to get to Koh Ngai is by regular ferry from Pak Meng Beach in Trang, where charters are also available.

- **Koh Rock Nai** (เกาะรอกใน) : has tall cliffs ; on the east are beaches and corals. On the north lie San Jao Bay and Tohn Point.

- **Koh Rock Nok** (เกาะรอกนอก) : on the southeast and south are long beach; coral in shallow water. At the far end of the island are Mahn Sai Bay and Talu Beach.

Places of Interest in Ao Luk District

Tharn Boke Koroni Arboretum (สวนรุกขชาติธารโบกขรณี) : covers 37.5 rai in Tambon Ao Luk Tai, about 1 km. from the Ao Luk Nua market intersection on the Ao Luk - Laem Sak road. It is a shady forest with many species of trees. Jungle Hibiscus, Apocyna Pond. This Pond is at the confluence of several streams running beneath the mountain. Nearby is a copy of Buddha's footprint carved from wood. Also nearby is a shire dedicated to the local deities, Toh Yuan and Toh Chong.



Tahm Lod Nua -Tai Cave (ถ้ำลอดเหนือ-ใต้) : is in the vicinity of the Ta Prang Canal, 2 kms. from the District Headquarters down the Ao Luk - Laem Sak Rd. There are 2 caves:

- **Tahm Lod Nua** (ถ้ำลอดเหนือ) : is a large grotto which is very twisted but beautiful.

- Tahm Lod Tai (ถ้ำลอดใต้) : is a long tunnel beneath the mountain rock, narrower than the one in Phang-nga. There are stalactites and stalagmites around the mouth of the cave that are very attractive. Also, curiously bent quarter - moon shaped rocks and boulders are strewn in rows. It is best to go at off tide by long tailed boat from Bortor Pier. Travel time is only 10 minutes.

Koh Garose (เกาะกาโรส) : is on the east end of Laem Sak. There are colored drawings of both men and animals in the vicinity of Ao Hin Bai.

Tahm Pra (ถ้ำพระ) : is located at the monastery on Kao Pra Suanyataram about 2 kms. from the Ao Luk District Office. Inside, there is a very old image of Buddha which was later braced by 2 other equal-sized images. There are also smaller wooden images round the base.

Tahm Petch (ถ้ำเพชร) : is 3 kms. from the intersection at Ao Luk Nua market. In front is enshrined an image of Buddha. The name of this cave 'Petch' means 'diamond', and indeed sparkling stone casts beautiful reflections on the cave walls. The best way to get there is to first contact the National Park Office at Tharn Boke Korani for a guide. Be sure to bring along a flashlight.

Tahm Chao Lay (ถ้ำชาวละ) : is in a beautiful cave on the west side of Laem Sak. Inside, there are stalactites and stalagmites as well as prehistoric cave paintings of people, animals, and various geometrical shapes. It is believed they are from the period after those at Pee Hua Toe Cave. To get there, take a long tail boat from Sapan Pla at Laem Sak. Travel time is no more than 15 minutes.

Tahm Song Pee Nong or Tahm Poon Nua-Tai (ถ้ำสองพี่น้องหรือถ้ำปูนเหนื่อ-ใต้) : is to the west of Pee Hua Toe Cave. Inside are Human skeletons, pottery remains, earrings, and bronze bracelets.

Koh Talu (เกาะทะลุ) : A 45 meter hill is in the center of the island, which has a 30 meters wide hole in it. A large number of swallows' nest on the island.

Tahm Hua Galok Nai or Tahm Boonmak (ถ้ำห้วยกะโหลกในหรือถ้ำบุญมาก) : is just 100 meters from Pee Hua Toe Cave. It was discovered by a local villager, whose name was Boonmak, and is filled with stalactites and stalagmites. The cave is very large and dark. Prehistoric clay artifacts have been found in the vicinity of its opening. Most have distinctive rope-like striping, thicker and rougher than found before.

Tahm Toh Luang (ถ้ำโต๊ะหลวง) : is near Ban Nob in Tambon Klong Hin. There are actually 3 floors, and each of the floors has stalactites and stalagmites of various shapes. Some are shaped like monks, some like serpents, etc. It is understood that this cave is the house of the local deity, named Toh Luang.

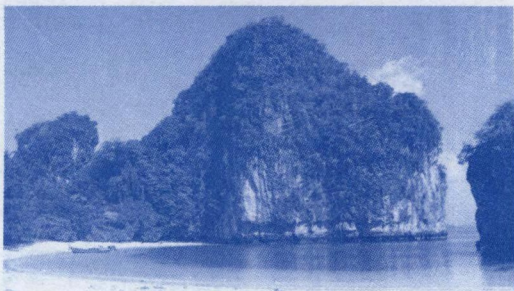
Tahm Sua Noy (ถ้ำเสือน้อย) : is the site of the Sua Noy monastery, about 2 kms. from the Hua Galok Cave in Ban Bortor. In front is a broad incline. Old pottery has been found in diggings there as well.

Tahm Sua Nok or Tahm Thep Nimit (ถ้ำเสือนอกหรือถ้ำเทพนิมิต) : is the site of Thep Nimit Monastery. The rock face is filled with shells owing to a sea tunnel beneath the cave. The upper level is a large dark cave and next to that, 50 meters off, is Tahm Orahon, or the Saints' Cave, which is filled with stalactites and stalagmites like long glass tubes. Very beautiful and very strange.

Klong Chai Kao (คลองชายเขา) : has characteristics similar to Ao Mahya in the Phi Phi Islands. You can pass by long tail boat through a tunnel to the other side. It takes about 5 minutes.

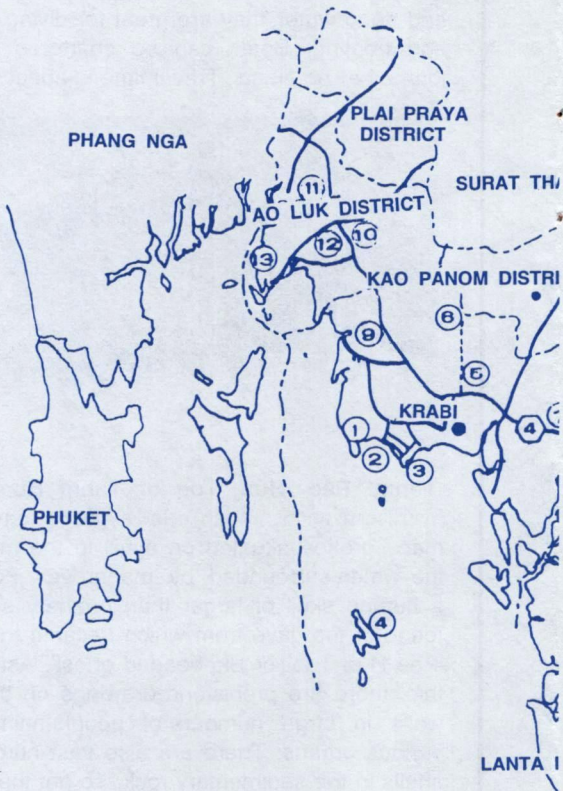
Koh Dang (เกาะแดง) : There is a 25 meters long sandy beach and a cave, 70 meters wide and 20 meters high.

Mu Koh Hong (หมู่เกาะห้อง) : There are both large and small islands. The main ones are : Laga or Saga Island, Lao Riem Island, and Lao Lading Island. These islands have great hollows inside them. Koh Hong is the largest island. It is the rocky island with coral formations in both shallow and deep water, they are great for diving, fishing and boating. Boats can be chartered for the journey at Ao Nang. Travel time is about 1 hour.



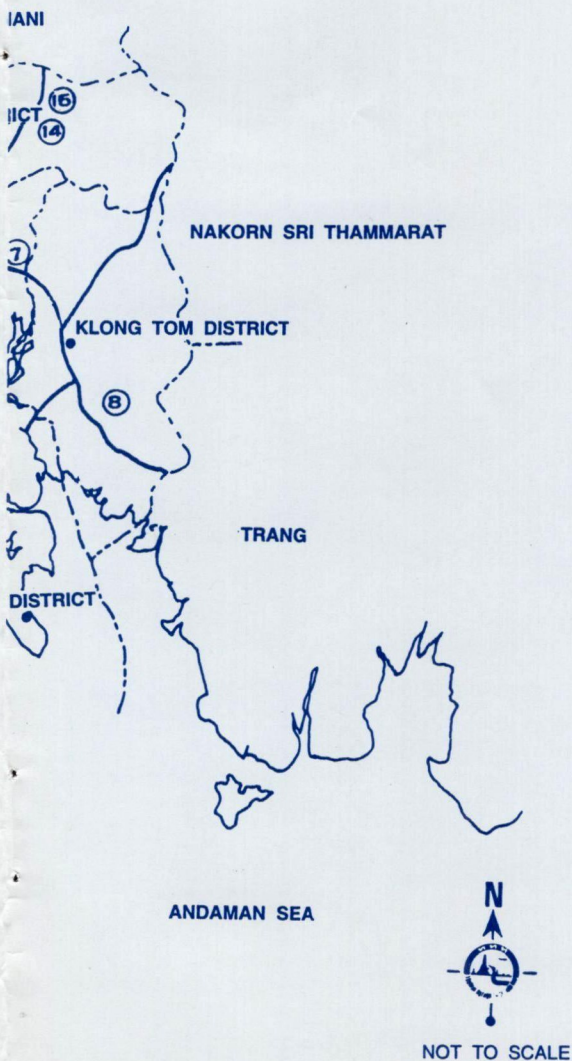
Tahm Pee Hua Toe or Tahm Hua Galok (ถ้ำผีหัวโตหรือถ้ำหัวกะโหลก) : is a large cave with many grottos, situated on a hill in the middle of the water, surrounded by mangroves. Formerly, a human skull of larger than ordinary size was found in the cave from which became the name 'Pee Hua Toe', or 'Big-headed ghost'. Aside from this, there are prehistoric drawings on the cave walls in large numbers of people, animals, and various organs. There are also vast numbers of shells in the sedimentary rock. To get there, take a boat from Bor Tor Pier, the same place you would leave from to get to Tahm Lod Nua Tai.

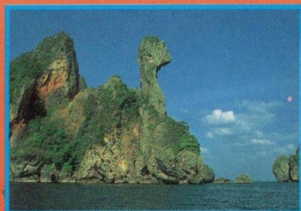
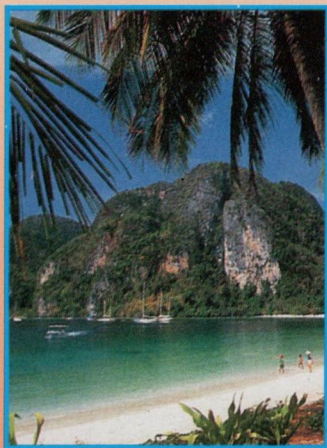
MAP OF TOURIST



1. HAHD NOPARATARAH
2. AO NANG
3. 75 MILLION - YEAR OLD
4. KOH PHI PHI
5. WAT TAHM SUA
6. NAMTOK HUOY TOE
7. TAHM SADET
8. NAM TOK HIN PERNG
9. SA KAEW
10. TAHM PETCH
11. TAHM PRA
12. TAN BOKE KORONI ARBORETUM
13. TAHM PEE HUA TOE
14. NAM TOK KLONG HANG
15. NAM TOK TON HAHN

ATTRACTIONS IN KRABI





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